Mr. President : If applications are made and the terms are suitable they will certainly receive the sympathetic consideration of the Government. But the difficulty at present is that the areas suitable for rubber plantation would mostly be needed for growing food stuffs.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Are Government aware that the new planting rights will expire at the end of 1943 till a revision of the international agreement is made?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* May be. But there is no reason to believe that it would not be extended.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* With regard to the helpful suggestion given by the President, may I get this information from the Government whether in considering applications by Cochinites for plantations favourable terms will be given to them with a view to encourage plantation by Cochinites in deference to the statement that is there which as I said before tells a revealing tale.

Mr. President : The question of giving favourable terms will be sympathetically considered.

EXTENT OF TIMBER FOREST, ETC.

36. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what is the extent of timber forests in the State;

(*b*) what is the acreage planted with teak by the Government?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* (*a*) 582 sq. miles 482·88 acres as it stood on 1st Medam 1118.

(*b*) 7,000·47 acres as it stood at the end of 1117.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* The answer to sub-division (b) is 7,000 acres. May I know how long the Government have been going on with the policy of planting teak. How long has it taken to reach this 7,000 acres.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* I think the first plantation was started somewhere about 1045. Then for a long period there was no planting at all. In 1090 or so they started again and up to 1108 they had about 3500 acres. The remaining 3,500 were planted during the last ten years.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What is the allotment per annum for re-afforestation.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* It all depends upon the amount that we are able to spend.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What has been the experience of the Government regarding the results of new planting.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* It has been extremely successful Teak saplings planted some ten years ago are being supplied to the Supply Department for war purposes.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What will be the girth after 10 years.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* About 6 to 10 inches in diameter, in favourable localities.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will the Government be pleased to consider the question of increasing the allotment for new planting and new sowing?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* The Government have already done it and propose to take about 5,000 acres for afforestation next year.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* What exactly is the quanity of teak extracted from our forests during the last two years.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* I am sorry I have not got the exact figures. In 1117 we collected about 15 to 20 thousand candies. Out of this about 10 to 15 thousand came from the trees in the plantations at Palappilli which were up-rooted by the cyclone.

DEVELOPMENT OF NELLIAMPATHI PLANTING DISTRICT—COMMITTEE FOR

37. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state whether the Government will get a scheme prepared by an expert committee for developing the Nelliampathi Planting District and put it into effect?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* There is no necessity for the appointment of a Committee for the purpose.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Have the Government any scheme for improving the plantations in the Nelliampathies.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* There is a cut motion relating to this and I think it will be better to discuss it in detail then.

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